

HB 7928 Assisted Living Residence Licensing Act

Chairwoman Donovan and members of the Health and Human Services Committee,

I am Dan Liparini, a resident of North Kingstown, and I am writing in support of this bill. It encourages and supports the establishment of family councils and resident councils in managed residential communities providing assisted living services.

Nursing homes can already form independent councils and that same protection needs to be extended to Assisted Living facilities. This bill does that. It also requires notification to families that this right exists – without that knowledge this right could well go unexercised. And this notice has to be done in mailings rather than just posting this information as many families are not near enough to the facility to know when meetings are going to take place.

Research consistently shows that facilities with active resident and family councils provide better care. Studies indicate that strong family-staff relationships lead to fewer conflicts, reduced staff burnout, and decreased behavioral issues among residents, and are associated with better health outcomes including fewer hospitalizations, reduced use of restraints, and lower fall risks. HB 7928 creates the conditions for those outcomes in Rhode Island's assisted living facilities.

There are other reasons to pass this legislation, but the overall goal is to ensure that Assisted Living facilities provide great care for the residents and great care and consideration for families of those residences. This bill does that.

Please support this important legislation.

Dan Liparini